Benefits fact sheet

Meningitis Trust

Meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia can strike unexpectedly and may turn your world upside down. This factsheet provides information about statutory benefits and other sources of help or information which may be available for people who have been left with a disability, or caring for a relative who has been left with a disability following meningitis or meningococcal septicaemia. Information about our free professional services can be found at **www.meningitis-trust.org**, or from our helpline on **0808 80 10 388**.

To find out more information about possible benefits you may be eligible for, please contact:

- **Benefit Enquiry Freephone helpline:** **0800 882 200**
- **Textphone:** **0800 243 355**
- **Email address:** **BEL-Customer-Services@dwp.gsi.gov.uk**
- **Website:** **www.direct.gov.uk/disability-money**

To find out more information about possible benefits you may be eligible for, please contact:

- **Working Tax Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit**

Tax Credits Helpline:
0845 300 3900
Textphone:
0845 300 3909
www.hmrc.gov.uk

- **Income Support**
- **Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Job Seeker's Allowance**

Jobcentre Plus Claim Line:
0800 055 6688
Textphone: 0800 0230 4888
www.dwp.gov.uk

Northern Ireland

For people in Northern Ireland, please go to the following website for more information about benefits and allowances: **www.nidirect.gov.uk**

Another useful contact for NI families is:

Northern Ireland Housing Executive
The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8PB

Tel: 03448 920 900

For information about the following benefits:

- **Disability Living Allowance -** tax-free benefit for children and adults who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled (not available if over 65 yrs when applying).
- **Carer's Allowance** - is a benefit if you look after someone who is disabled (not available if over 65 yrs when applying).
- **Direct Payments for care and services** - are made by councils to people receiving social care services.
- **Attendance Allowance** - is a tax-free benefit you may get if you're aged 65 or over and need help with personal care because you're physically or mentally disabled.
- **Disabled Facilities Grants** - is a local council grant to help towards the cost of adapting your home to enable you to continue to live there.
- **Community Care Grants** - if you need financial help to live independently in the community.
- **Disabled Students' Allowances** - provides extra financial help if you want to study a higher education course and have a disability, ongoing health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty like dyslexia.
- **Housing and Council Tax Benefit** - if you're on a low income, whether you're working or not, and need financial help to pay all, or part of, your rent or Council Tax.
- **Local Housing Allowance** - if you are a private tenant renting a property or room from a private landlord and you are on a low income.
- **Blue Badge Parking Scheme** - the Blue Badge scheme is for people with severe mobility problems.

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Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme

You may be able to get financial help from the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme if you're on a low income, need NHS treatment at a hospital, other NHS centre or private clinic and have been referred by an NHS hospital consultant, doctor or dentist.

www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/

If you aren't eligible for this scheme, we may be able to help through our financial support grants.

Help with funeral expenses

If you're on a low income and need help to pay for a funeral you're arranging, you may be able to get a Funeral Payment from the Social Fund if you or your partner are getting any of the following benefits or tax credits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit (or the Council Tax payer where you live gets a Second Adult Rebate because you are on a low income)
- Working Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
- Child Tax Credit at a rate higher than the family element

You must claim a Funeral Payment from the date of death and up to three months after the date of the funeral.

To find out more go to: **www.direct.gov.uk/en/Diol1/DoItOnline/DG_4017717**

If you aren't eligible for a Funeral Payment, we may be able to help through our financial support grants.

Direct payments

Direct payments are made by councils to people receiving social care services, instead of the council providing the service directly. A person must be able to give their consent to receiving direct payments and be able to manage them, even if they need help to do this on a day-to-day basis.

If you already receive social services:
Your local council must offer you the option of direct payments in place of the services you currently receive. There are some limited circumstances where you are not given this choice. Your council will be able to tell you about these.

- disabled and aged 16 or over
- a carer aged 16 or over, including people with parental responsibility for a disabled child
- an older person

To find out more go to:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/Introductiontofinancialsupport

Social services

A health and social care assessment with the social services department of your local council is often the first step towards getting the help and support you need. The assessment is also known as an 'assessment of need'.

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/HealthAndSupport/ArrangingHealthAndSocialCare/

If you do not have internet access you need to telephone your local council.

Family Fund

The Family Fund is a registered charity, which provides grant funding for disabled and severely ill children and young people under 17 years of age who meet the criteria below:

- Live in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.
- Are the parent or carer of a severely disabled child or young person aged 17 or under who lives at home.
- Are eligible to receive, and can send evidence of, one of the following: Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit*, Employment Support Allowance*, Housing Benefit, or Pension Credit.
- Have permanent legal residency in the UK and have lived in the UK for six months.
  (*They may need to ask for more information about other household income.)

Family Fund
4 Alpha Court
Monks Cross Drive
York
YO32 9WN

Tel: 0845 130 4542
Textphone: 01904 658085
Fax: 01904 652625
info@familyfund.org.uk

DIAL UK

A national organisation for a network of 140 local disability information and advice services run by, and for, disabled people.

Tel: 01302 310 123
Fax: 01302 310 404
Textphone: 01302 310 123 (please use voice announcer)
informationenquiries@dialuk.org.uk

Motability

The Motability scheme enables disabled people to exchange either their Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance or their War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement to obtain a new car, powered wheelchair or scooter.

Motability Operations
City Gate House
22 Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HB

Tel: 0845 456 4566
(8.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday)

If you have specialist Minicom equipment, call the Textphone on 0845 675 0009

www.motability.co.uk

Contact a Family

A UK charity for families with disabled children. It offers information on specific conditions and rare disorders.

Contact a Family
209-211 City Road
London
EC1V 1JN

Tel: 020 7608 8700
Fax: 020 7608 8701
Freephone for parents and families (Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5pm)
Helpline: 0808 808 3555 or
Textphone: 0808 808 3556
info@cafamily.org.uk

Contact a Family
Northern Ireland Office
50 Railway Street
Lisburn
BT28 1XP
Tel: 028 9262 7552

Citizens Advice Bureau

This organisation offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice, helping to resolve problems with various issues, and is available to all.

Telephone: 08444 111 444 (England)
Telephone: 0844 477 2020 (Wales)
www.adviceguide.org.uk

For information about financial support grants from the Meningitis Trust, and how we can help, please contact our 24-hour nurse-led helpline on 0808 80 10 388.

We have recently funded respite care, specialist equipment, swimming lessons and speech therapy.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything in this factsheet in more detail, please phone our helpline.

The Meningitis Trust is here to help you, when you need us and for as long as you need us.

Meningitis can strike in an instant, but its impact can last a lifetime. We know that meningitis and septicaemia can turn your world upside down.

We help and support around 20,000 people every year, providing a range of FREE services. We can:

- Listen; and answer your questions about meningitis and its life-changing impact
- Talk to you about your individual experience and how we can tailor our help to you
- Visit you in your own home and provide support locally to you
- Put you in touch with others who have been through it too
- Provide financial assistance to help make life that little bit easier
- Support you and those closest to you – children, teenagers and adults
- Make you a priority; we have no waiting lists for our services

If you are interested in finding out how we can help, give us a call and we can talk everything through. Requesting a home visit can be a great starting point.

Freephone **24-hour nurse-led helpline**
0808 80 10 388

We are proud of the work we do, but we can't do it alone. We rely on voluntary donations and need help from people like you. Every penny, pound, hour and day given makes a big difference. Find out how you can help www.meningitis-trust.org

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